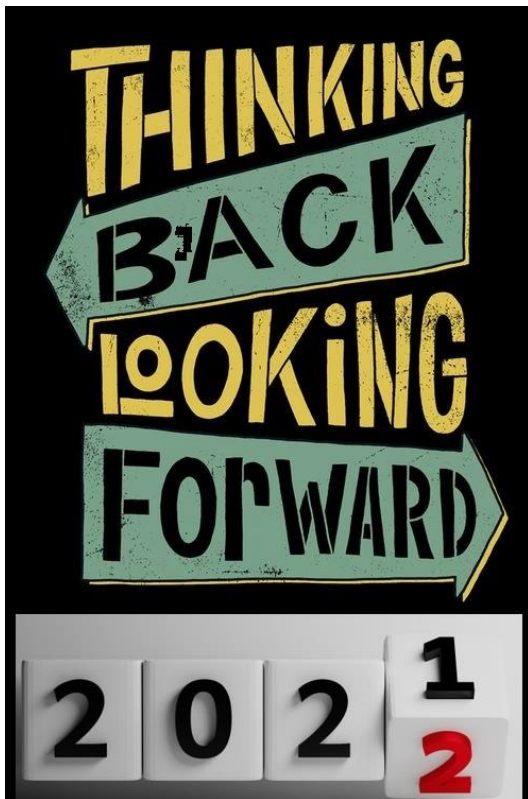


State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services



Employment & Day Services Division

Monthly Employment  
Newsletter



As the year comes to an end, the Employment & Day Services Division is celebrating all the employment successes we have achieved this year. Throughout the pandemic, our community has come together to ensure the individuals we serve receive person-centered, self-determined supports. Our division is thankful for these achievements, and for all you do to help accomplish them. There are many exciting projects developing in 2022, we look forward to another successful year of employment opportunities!

# EDS Updates

## Customized Employment (CE)

The first iteration of the Connecticut Customized Employment Certification has been successfully completed! More information on 2022 iterations to follow.

DDS held a Provider Information Session to review and discuss Customized Employment, resources and links that were discussed in this meeting will be released shortly.

More information about Customized Employment in CT can be found [here](#).

**DDS**  
Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS)  
Customized Employment (CE) Information Session  
**November 15<sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

This meeting will discuss the joint work of DDS and the State of Connecticut Departments of Education (SDE) and Aging and Disability Services (ADS) as well as the RESC Alliance on the Connecticut CE Curriculum which launched 10/4.

**The following topics will be reviewed and discussed:**

- CT State CE Training Curriculum and Certification
- Current CE Training (started 10/4) & Next Training
- Rates, Incentives, & Referral Process
- Provider Qualification Process & Criteria
- Different Certification Processes & CESP Certification
- Outreach to individuals & families about the benefits of CE

**Opening Doors to Possibilities**

**We help put together the right pieces to find a career, not just a job.**

All employment & day providers and DDS staff interested in learning more about DDS Customized Employment Services are welcome to attend.



[Customized Employment Works Everywhere](#)

[Customized Employment Competency Model](#)

## **CT DDS SELN Strategic Planning Committees**

CT DDS Strategic Planning Sub-Committees were formed to address the State Employment Leadership Network's (SELN) Finding & Observations Report (February 2021). The report commends strengths, reviews areas of improvement, and makes recommendations for action.

A Steering Committee and seven sub-committees each meet monthly to collectively create a workplan centered around the content areas of the SELN F&O Report. Each sub-committee group is assigned to one of the seven content areas below:

1. Leadership
2. Strategic Goals & Operating Policies
3. Financing & Contracting Methods
4. Training & Technical Assistance
5. Interagency Collaboration
6. Services & Service Innovations
7. Employment Performance Measurement, Quality Assurance, & Program Oversight

More information about this exciting process can be found [here](#).

## **CT Job Developers Leadership Networks (JDLNs)**

The Connecticut Job Development Leadership Network (JDLN) provides networking and resources to employment specialist and Job developers. The 2<sup>nd</sup> JDLN Statewide meeting highlighted relevant and vital assessable resources and connections. This meeting highlighted CT APSE, CESP certification, DOL and much more. We have also extended the proposal of creating a 2<sup>nd</sup> Southern JDLN for the New Haven County area.

## **Project SEARCH**

# How Can Young Adults with Disabilities Find Employment Through Unpaid Internships?



## Project SEARCH At Darien YMCA 2420 Post Road, Darien, CT –

**Project SEARCH** is a nine-month internship program for people with disabilities, between the ages of 18-30, who seek competitive employment.

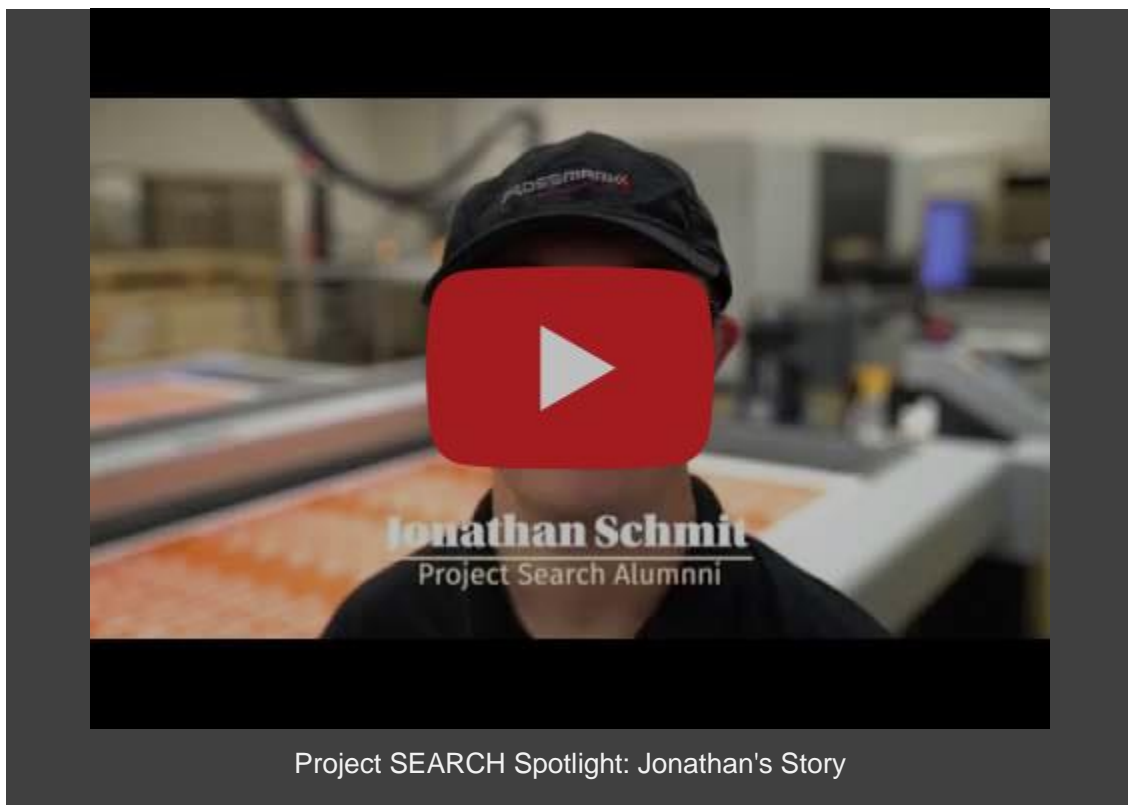
Abilis runs **two** programs: one at Greenwich Hospital and one at the Darien YMCA. In these programs, total immersion in the workplace facilitates the teaching and learning process, as well as the acquisition of employability and marketable work skills. Interns participate in three, unpaid internships and explore a variety of career paths. Along the way, the interns increase their independence, self-confidence, and self-esteem preparing them for future employment.

Interns work with a team that includes their family, their Project SEARCH instructor, an Abilis job coach/developer and a business mentor. The interns

begin their day learning employability skills in a classroom. After this classroom portion of the day, the interns move to their internship where they are taught distinct employment skills and receive feedback about their skill development. At the end of the day, the interns return to the classroom to reflect on their day, discuss challenges and evaluate progress.

The Project SEARCH model boasts a placement rate of over 75% in CT and nationally. With the help of Abilis and the Project SEARCH team, interns utilize the skills they have learned to achieve competitive employment in the community.

Contact Monica Smyth for more information | [Smyth@abilis.us](mailto:Smyth@abilis.us) | 203-324-1880 x 336



## Links & Resources

[APSE Certified Employment Support Professional](#)

[CT DDS Self-Advocate's Corner](#)

[One Hartford December Flyer](#)

[Sock Starz In West Hartford Brings On Employees with Intellectual Disabilities](#)

[LEAD Center: WIOA Policy Development](#)

## Contact Employment & Day Services:

460 Capital Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

(860) 418-6091 | [Email](#) | [Website](#)



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